DISCOVER DIVERSITY
Visitor facilities
WELCOME!

We’re delighted that you’re interested in discovering the tremendous variety of the Bavarian Forest National Park. For a good place to start connecting with our wild natural landscape, look no further than our informative visitor facilities. They offer plenty of fascinating information on local flora and fauna, recount the history of the region and clarify our National Park philosophy of letting nature be natural. Many of our exhibitions also feature engaging multimedia elements geared towards all the family.

Moving outside, our visitor facilities’ outdoor areas often border directly with the emerging pristine woodland. The forest playground – a real favourite with youngsters – is a prime example of this, while our animal enclosures are always worth a visit, no matter the season. The latter allow you to witness current and former animal inhabitants of the Bavarian Forest in enclosures designed to mirror their natural habitat. Seeing them here is the next best thing to encountering them in the wild.

Whatever you choose to explore, I’d like to warmly welcome you to the Bavarian Forest National Park.

Dr. Franz Leibl
Head of the Bavarian Forest National Park Administration
The **HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS** forms the central hub of the National Park Centre Lusen. Informative, interactive and imposing throughout, the permanent exhibition “Ways into nature – A history of forest and people” offers insights into the secrets of the Bavarian Forest National Park. What’s behind the philosophy “Letting nature be natural”? What emotions do people connect with the forest? How has the protected area developed since it was first established? And who or what actually lives in the wilderness the Park has created? Visitors can find out all this and much more inside the exhibition. There’s even a designated children’s route here with eleven audio stations explaining different aspects of the National Park in simple terms – adults can listen in and learn too!

**TIP:** Do you want to visit other destinations in the National Park besides the Hans-Eisenmann-Haus? If so, our friendly staff at the information desk have plenty of useful tips on what to see.

**KIDS’ ROUTE:** Young adventurers can explore an exciting dedicated route through the exhibition specifically designed to feed young minds. There are a few teasing puzzles to solve along the way, and kids that succeed in unlocking the forest’s secrets can even look forward to a small surprise at the end.

**CINEMA:** A varied range of films is shown on the big screen in our cinema room. This is the place to come for stunning footage of the National Park as well as clips featuring “Flotterlu” – our lovable kids’ mascot.

**READING GALLERY:** Want to take time out with some interesting books on the natural world and the Bavarian Forest? Look no further than our cozy and inviting reading gallery!
SERVICE

HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS OPENING HOURS
26 December to 30 April, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
9 November to 25 December, closed

FOOD & DRINK
Café Eisenmann and the Waldwirtschaft both offer excellent food and drink options. Find out more information and check the opening hours at www.erlebnis-gastronomie-gmbh.de. In addition, the Waldstüberl snack bar is conveniently located directly next to the car park.
Find out more on +49 (0) 8558 2647.

NATIONAL PARK SHOP
The National Park shop stocks books and games focusing on animals and the natural world as well as a range of regional souvenirs. More information on +49 (0) 8558 973404.

Easily accessible by Igelbus!
Stop: Nationalparkzentrum Lusen

Address: Böhmstraße 39, 94556 Neuschönau
Parking is subject to charges!

CONTACT
Hans-Eisenmann-Haus
Tel.: +49 (0) 8558 9615-0
Fax: +49 (0) 8558 9615-22
heh@npv-bw.bayern.de

The lynx, Ural owl, wolf, European bison, otter, bear and capercaillie – all of these animals are indigenous to the Bavarian Forest, and while many still thrive in our forests, some have unfortunately disappeared. Our ANIMAL ENCLOSURES give you the chance to experience all these animals first hand. Set within an emerging wild woodland environment, the 200-hectare site is home to some 40 different species of mammals and birds. The animals are housed in large enclosures and aviaries designed to be as close to their natural habitat as possible, with enough space for our animal residents to withdraw from the public gaze whenever they choose. The best way to explore the enclosures is on the seven-kilometre circular path, which takes three to four hours to walk. The trail also includes a number of convenient short cuts, making it easy to find the ideal route for you. Suitable for both prams and wheelchairs, the trails are cleared in winter and the site is freely accessible all year round.
Ever take a stroll through the tree tops? Now you can with our 1,300-metre **TREE TOP WALK**. You can see the forest from a whole new perspective up to 44 metres above the forest floor, with plenty of unique insights and incredible views across the Bavarian Forest National Park along the way.

Operator: Erlebnis Akademie AG, Bad Kötzting
Opening hours and admission prices:
www.baumwipfelpfad.bayern
Tel.: + 49 (0) 8558 9740-74

**TREE TOP WALK**

The local flora is one of the most fascinating aspects of the National Park for many people. On a four-hectare site surrounding the Hans-Eisenmann-Haus, visitors have the chance to admire the sometimes rare flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, ferns and mosses native to the Bavarian Forest in all their glory. The **BOTANICAL SITE** showcases several hundred species of plants in their natural habitats and communities, including some species planted in convenient raised beds. The site is freely accessible all year round.

**BOTANICAL SITE**

The Bavarian Forest is riddled with stones. The **GEOLOGICAL SITE** therefore puts the geological history of the region firmly in the spotlight. Some of the rocks here were formed over 500 million years ago. Many of the blocks of stone have had a corner cut off to expose the inside, helping ensure that visitors don’t confuse granite for gneiss, or vice versa! The site is accessible all year round.

**GEOLOGICAL SITE**
The **Haus zur Wildnis** forms the focal point of Falkenstein National Park Centre. The building’s unique architectural design is fascinating in its own right, though it can’t quite steal the show from the centre’s stunning views of the 1,315-metre Großer Falkenstein. The emerging woodland wilderness within the Bavarian Forest National Park is the main focus of the building’s exhibition. Genesis, growth and decay – this natural cycle is ubiquitous and tangible with all the senses here. The centre’s root gallery is a particularly memorable experience, where you can stroll through the layers of soil under the ground, getting to know the small creatures that populate the subterranean world as you go. Kids are guided by Schratzl, our loveable mascot, as he leads the way between the centre’s interactive exhibits and play stations.

**TIP:** Do you want to visit other destinations in the National Park besides the Haus zur Wildnis? If so, our friendly staff at the information desk have plenty of useful tips on what to see.

**Kids’ Route:** Young adventurers can explore an exciting dedicated route through the exhibition specifically designed to feed young minds. There are a few teasing puzzles to solve along the way, and kids that succeed in unlocking the forest’s secrets can even look forward to a small surprise at the end.

**3D Cinema:** A varied range of films are shown on the big screen in our cinema room. These include a three-dimensional trip through the woodland wilderness, offering unique perspectives on the forest and National Park.

**Playgrounds:** Youngsters can let off some steam here no matter the weather. On sunny days, kids can head for the forest adventure playground in front of the Haus zur Wildnis, while the children’s adventure playroom is the place to be if the weather takes a turn for the worse.

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**Falkenstein National Park Centre**
SERVICE

OPENING HOURS HAUS ZUR WILDNIS
26 December to 30 April, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
9 November to 25 December, closed

OPENING HOURS STONE AGE CAVE
1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
9 November to 30 April, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FOOD & DRINK
The in-house restaurant and café serves organic, fair and regional cuisine. Find out more information and opening hours at www.gastronomie-hauszurwildnis.de.

NATIONAL PARK SHOP
The National Park shop has everything from regional handcrafts made of wood or glass to high-quality children’s toys. More information on +49 (0) 9922 5002-113.

Easily accessible by Igelbus and Waldbahn! Stop: Ludwigsthal/Haus zur Wildnis

Address: Eisensteiner Straße, D-94227 Ludwigsthal
P Parking is subject to charges!

KONTAKT
Haus zur Wildnis
Tel.: +49 (0) 9922 5002-0
Fax: +49 (0) 9922 5002-167
hzw@npv-bw.bayern.de

In addition to the popular lynx and wolves, the ANIMAL ENCLOSURES are also home to two less well-known former inhabitants of the Bavarian Forest: wild horses and aurochs. While wild horses populated the steppe landscape here after the last ice age, aurochs inhabited the forests of Bavaria until the early Middle Ages. This seemingly unusual duo share the near-natural enclosure flanking the STONE AGE CAVE. In the latter, visitors are whisked back to the Palaeolithic era and surrounded by artificial rock walls in a place where they can experience the change in climate, landscape and fauna in the time since. An almost three-kilometre circular trail visits every enclosure and takes around one and a half hours to walk. The terrain is suitable for prams and wheelchairs, and the trails are cleared in winter and freely accessible all year round.

ANIMAL ENCLOSURES
STONE AGE CAVE
Circular route through the wildlife enclosures
Direct and lit (if required) trail to the Haus zur Wildnis
Other hiking trails
Cycling trails

Visitor service
Meeting point
Guided tours
Bus stop
Igelbus
Train stop
Waldbahn

Ludwigsthal

ANIMAL ENCLOSURES

STONE AGE CAVE
Wild horse
Aurochs

FALKENSTEIN
NATIONAL PARK CENTRE
The locals (affectionately known as “Waidler”) have always had a special bond with their home region. The **FOREST HISTORY MUSEUM** focuses on the interplay between the forest and people – a relationship which has shaped art and tradition, and been occasionally punctuated by darker days. The museum therefore not only provides insights into the geological origins of the region, but also gets to the heart of how humans have influenced the Bavarian Forest – from the glass industry and forestry work through to the establishment of the protected area. There are also plenty of fascinating insights into local traditions, contemporary history, literature and music along the way. Comfortable audio stations are dotted throughout the exhibition where you can lie back and listen to people sharing first-hand experiences. The tree-bound stairway connecting the three levels of the museum is always a hit with youngsters, spicing a visit to the museum with a dash of adventure.

**OPENING HOURS**
Tuesday to Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays! (Except on public holidays)
Closed 23 to 25 December

**CONTACT**
Waldgeschichtliches Museum St. Oswald
Tel.: +49 (0) 8552 974889-0
Fax: +49 (0) 8552 974889-9
wgm@npv-bw.bayern.de

**Easily accessible by Igelbus!**
Stop: Gasthof Goldener Steig/St. Oswald

**Address:** Klosterallee 4, D-94568 St. Oswald
Kids can connect with nature through play at the **FOREST PLAYGROUND** in the Bavarian Forest National Park. The 50-hectare site has numerous adventures in store for youngsters. It’s the ideal place for a family excursion, no matter the season! There are three exciting areas to explore here.

**NATURE DISCOVERY TRAIL**: Visitors can gain a range of unique insights into the forest at ten interesting stations. Play music with natural materials, trace plant textures with your fingertips, walk barefoot over the forest floor, listen in on bird song, savour natural aromas or simply pause to take it all in – all this and more is possible on the roughly two-kilometre Nature Discovery Trail. Great fun for young and old alike.

**PLAYGROUNDS**: Feel like letting off some steam? Then there’s no better place to be than our playgrounds. Kids can slide, climb, play and swing to their heart’s content here. There’s even a white-knuckle zip line to try out. Several of the attractions are accessible with assistance, as are large sections of the trail network in the forest playground. Please note that the majority of the play apparatus is removed during the winter.

**FOREST MEADOW**: In the heart of the site, the forest meadow offers lots of wide open space for running around. Seek out dragonflies in the ponds, observe the teeming activity in the insect hotel or even try your hand at being a woodpecker. On top of that, there’s a campfire area and a sheltered section in case of bad weather. By the way, the meadow is also the perfect place to make snow sculptures in the winter!

- Easily accessible by Igelbus and Waldbahn!
- Stop: Bahnhof Spiegelau
- Address: Trosselweg 7, D-94518 Spiegelau
INFO POINTS

NATURAL KNEIPP HYDROTHERAPY POOL SPIEGELAU
The Natural Kneipp hydrotherapy pool near Spiegelau is not just a great source of refreshment in warm weather, as its crystal-clear mountain water is always an experience in itself. Thanks to the paved ramps, the site is also suitable for wheelchairs, and you won’t have to ask kids twice about playing in the water!

Easily accessible by Igelbus!
Stop: Aufichtenwald-Steg

Address: Kurpark; D-94518 Spiegelau

DEER ENCLOSURE SCHEUERECK
The deer enclosure in Scheuereck is a special place for enjoying the natural world just down from Falkenstein. Here, visitors can admire the imposing deer from up close in their nine-hectare near-natural enclosure. In the warmer half of the year, a 300-metre walking path cuts directly through the compound, while a viewing platform offers a great view of the deer all year round.

Easily accessible by Igelbus!
Stop: Scheuereck

Address: Scheuereck 1; D-94227 Lindberg

In addition to the main visitor facilities, the National Park also maintains a dense network of INFO POINTS in cooperation with local towns and communities in the region. These are great sources of information for excursions in the natural landscape, including useful tips for walking, cycling and snowshoe tours. In addition, they also offer plenty of interesting facts about the region, its animals and plants. Enjoy!

BAYERISCH EISENSTEIN:
Info point at the border train station
Bahnhofstraße 54; D-94252 Bayerisch Eisenstein
www.naturparkwelten.de

FRAUENAU
Info point in the glass museum
Am Museumspark 1; D-94258 Frauenau
www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

FREYUNG
Info point in Schloss Wolfstein
Wolfkerstraße 1; D-94078 Freyung
www.jagd-land-fluss.de

MAUTH
Info point at the tourist information
Mühlweg 2; D-94151 Mauth
www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

SPIEGELAU
Info point at the tourist information
Konrad-Wilsdorf-Str. 1; D-94518 Spiegelau
www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

ZWIESEL
Info point at the Naturparkhaus
Infozentrum 3; D-94227 Zwiesel
www.naturpark-bayerischer-wald.de
IMPORTANT TIPS

HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

Please note that you are prohibited from leaving the trails in particularly sensitive areas of our National Park, such as high-altitude areas and bogland zones. This measure is intended to protect endangered flora and fauna. Areas where this rule applies are indicated on walking maps and by signs in these zones.

If you are hiking in the National Park, always ensure that you come well equipped. Everyone should have a map, sturdy footwear, drinks, a mobile phone, first-aid kit and bad weather clothing to hand.

The National Park aims to protect the natural process of genesis, growth and decay. As a result, dead trees are left to return to the natural cycle – an approach that makes falling trees and dead wood typical hazards here. Please be aware of these dangers and leave the forest in strong winds for your own safety. Please note that you always use the trails in the National Park at your own risk!

Some cycle paths and walking paths with gentle gradients, such as those linking the animal enclosures, are suitable for prams and wheelchairs. The respective maximum gradient is always indicated on our signs on these trails.

Please do not litter the landscape! This includes dog waste bags and tissues. Please help us to keep our wild woodland clean. Thank you!
The easy and environmentally-friendly way to travel

In the National Park, the local rail and Igelbus services are the most relaxing way to travel between the key trailheads and visitor facilities. The GUTi (Gästeservice Umwelt-Ticket), the visitor card for environmentally-friendly transport, allows free travel on these services, while the Bayerwald-Ticket provides massive reductions on ticket prices. If you park your car at a point within the transport network, you can plan a route that links to a trailhead by bus or train before looping back to your car on foot.

Connections:

WALDBAHN AND ILZTALBAHN RAIL SERVICES
Four Waldbahn lines connect the dots in the National Park region, with Zwiesel forming the main hub in the heart of the area. Falkenstein National Park Centre in Ludwigshafen has its own small station on the Plattling-Bayerisch Eisenstein Waldbahn line. The Ilztalbahn line with its additional bus connections is a great link from the south during the summer months.

IGELBUS SERVICE
The Igelbus service connects the trailheads of walking paths in the area surrounding Lusen and Rachel with the communities of Mauth, Hohenau, Spiegelau, St. Oswald-Riedlhütte, Grafenau and Neuschonau. The Lusen National Park Centre in Neuschonau is an important hub within the network and it is also served by its own stop. The Falkensteinbus connects Zwiesel with the top tourist destinations in the northern National Park area, such as the Zwieselwaldhaus, the Schwelhläusen and Falkenstein National Park Centre.

MORE INFORMATION
Detailed timetables, information on the GUTi ticket and suggested excursions are available from tourist information centres, National Park centres and info points as well as online at www.bayerwald-ticket.com.

A great way to enjoy your holiday

Check out our NATIONAL PARK PARTNERS:

A visit to the National Park starts with your choice of accommodation and your inbound journey with public transport – and for an authentically natural experience, look no further than our National Park Partners. These carefully chosen partners are synonymous with high quality, regionality and an environmentally-friendly approach, making it easy for you to enjoy a great visit to the National Park and contribute to the development of sustainable tourism in our region.

Our National Park Partners often use our visitor facilities and trails themselves, making them ideally positioned to advise you – they are always delighted to pass on their passion and knowledge to others. Our partners have the best information and personal tips on hand to ensure that your visit to the National Park is a memorable experience filled with wonder and discovery.

Our certified natural experience partners can even accompany you through the National Park or you could take a break at one of the National Park’s lodges or inns. The Igelbus, Waldbahn and Ilztalbahn public transport services help link the most important places in the region. Our National Park Partners are also sure to have the perfect room for you – whether you’re looking for a B&B, a hotel or an apartment, all partner accommodation comes with National Park passion as standard!

With our National Park Partners YOU’LL EXPERIENCE MORE – NATURALLY.

More on the cooperation here:
www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/partner

Plan your holiday with our National Park Partners:
www.nationalpark-partner.com

The new app:
Experience the forest in 3D

The Park’s annual 1.3 million visitors can now use a new app to experience the Bavarian Forest National Park in a completely different way, thanks to the integrated 3D map and up-to-date trail information. With plenty of visitor tips, tours, information on the National Park centres as well as a webcam, the app is a fantastic resource for exploring Germany’s oldest National Park.

Guided through the wild woodland

Would you like our forest guides and rangers to show you the impressive natural woodlands? If so, our tours are just the ticket! These tours are organised on an almost daily basis throughout the National Park, including at both animal enclosure sites and at the forest playground. You can get more information at www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/veranstaltungen or by calling our guide service for free on our hotline +49 (0) 800 0776650.

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LETTING NATURE BE NATURAL

Publisher: Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald
Freyunger Straße 2, 94481 Grafenau
Internet: www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de
E-mail: poststelle@npv-bw.bayern.de
Correct as of: November 2017
Editorial team: Gregor Wolf
Design: Andreas Stumpp, Annemarie Schmeller
Printing: Druck & Service Garhammer, Regen
Picture credits: Daniela Blöchinger (S. 2, 4, 8, 12, Umschlag); Frank Bietau (S.14, 15, 24); Christian Binder (S. 6); Hans Dieter Budde (Umschlag); Erlebnisakademie AG (S. 8); Ernstlhof Kaikenried (Umschlag); Jo Fröhlich (S. 18); Irene Gianordoli (S.20); Johannes Haslinger (S. 15); Maria Hußlein (S. 8); Rainer Simonis (S. 15); Andreas Stumpp (S. 3); Simon Thorn (S.7)
Cover graphic: Andreas Stumpp
Translation: Rowan Sewell (www.rowansewell.com)

The cover graphic was created based on the results of the media workshop “Die Grafik – von der Idee zum fertigen Produkt” during the introductory seminar to the Commerzbank Umweltpraktikum 2017.

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

This publication is offered free of charge as part of the public relations work undertaken by the Bavarian State Government. The brochure is available for free, and any paid reselling is prohibited. This brochure was put together with the utmost care. However, no guarantee can be made as to its correctness and completeness. We accept no responsibility for the contents of third-party internet sites.

THE BAVARIAN FOREST NATIONAL PARK HOLDS

The Seal of Quality

The European Diploma (since 1986)

Certification as a Transboundary Park together with Šumava National Park (since 2009)

Membership to EUROPARC Deutschland
Umbrella organisation of Germany’s major protected areas